

2006 Hurricane Guide

Hurricane Preparedness Check List

The kit should have 3 to 14 days supply of the following items:

THE BASICS:

- ☐ Drinking water (1 gallon per person per day)
- ☐ Manual can opener
- ☐ Nonperishable foods *
- ☐ Canned meat, fish, fruit, or vegetables
- ☐ Bread in moisture proof packaging
- ☐ Cookies, candy or dried fruit
- ☐ Canned soups & nonperishable milk
- ☐ Powdered or single serve drinks
- ☐ Cereal or granola bars
- ☐ Packaged ketchup, mustard or mayonnaise
- ☐ Peanut butter and jelly
- ☐ Instant tea or coffee
- ☐ Flashlight (1 per person) *
- ☐ Portable battery powered lanterns
- ☐ Large trash bags (lots of them)
- ☐ Battery operated radio *
- ☐ Extra batteries, including hearing aid batteries
- ☐ First aid kit including aspirin, antibiotic cream
- ☐ Mosquito repellent
- ☐ Sunscreen (45 SPF recommended)
- ☐ Waterproof matches / butane lighter
- ☐ Money *
- ☐ Unscented bleach or water purification tablets (add 8 drops of bleach per gal.)
- ☐ Maps of the area with landmarks on it

COOKING:

- ☐ Sterno fuel
- ☐ Portable camp stove or grill w/ utensils
- ☐ Stove fuel, charcoal w/ lighter fluid or propane
- ☐ Disposable eating utensils, plates, cups
- ☐ Napkins and paper towels
- ☐ Aluminum foil
- ☐ Oven mitts

PERSONAL SUPPLIES:

- ☐ Prescription medicines (1 month supply and copy of prescriptions) *
- ☐ Feminine hygiene products

- ☐ Toilet paper
- ☐ Entertainment: books, games, toys and magazines *
- ☐ Bedding: pillows, sleeping bag *
- ☐ Change of clothing *
- ☐ Rain ponchos and work gloves
- ☐ Extra eye glasses or contacts

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS*:

- ☐ Insurance documents
- ☐ A list of all your important contacts (family, doctors, insurance agents)
- ☐ Banking information
- ☐ Leases / mortgage
- ☐ Proof of occupancy (such as utility bill) *
- ☐ Photo inventory of your personal belongings *
- ☐ Waterproof container to keep the documents in

BABIES:

- ☐ Disposable diapers *
- ☐ Formula, food and medication *
- ☐ Bottles and feeding utensils

PET SUPPLIES:

- ☐ Dry and/or canned food
- ☐ ID tags and collars
- ☐ Proof of recent immunizations
- ☐ Water (1/2 gallon per day)
- ☐ Litter box and supplies
- ☐ Carrying container

OTHER NECESSITIES:

- ☐ Tool Box
- ☐ ABC rated fire extinguisher
- ☐ Masking tape or duct tape
- ☐ Outdoor extension cords
- ☐ Spray paint
- ☐ Standard single line phone (After hurricanes, many people still have service, but no phone)
- ☐ Local phone book
- ☐ Roofing tarps or plastic sheeting

* If you are planning to evacuate to a Red Cross Evacuation Center, please be sure to take these items.



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Be Storm Smart



Before



During



After

Getting ready for hurricane season

The 2005 Hurricane Season will be remembered as the busiest ever - at least for as long as records have been kept on the storms that threaten coastal communities each year. Forecasters predict that a cycle of increased hurricane activity may continue for years to come. With this in mind, as we approach June 1 - the start of the 2006 Hurricane Season - residents should remember that the time to prepare is now, not when a storm is approaching.

"Everyone needs to know what to do before, during and after a hurricane makes landfall," said **County Manager George M. Burgess**. "It is imperative that we create a culture of preparedness in our community - that every household has a personal hurricane plan and each member of the family participates in the planning."

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Chief Herminio Lorenzo, who oversees the **County's Office of Emergency Management**, echoes this concern. "While it is our responsibility to ensure that emergency plans are in place to safeguard our community, we need the help of all residents. Everyone needs to be involved."

The information in this guide is designed to ensure that you, your family (including your pets) and your property are ready for any storms that might blow our way this year.

Before the Storm

Storms often form off the Atlantic weeks before they threaten the Caribbean and U.S. coastlines. Residents in hurricane prone areas do not always pay close attention until the National Hurricane Center issues a watch. But, it is a mistake to wait until a storm is threatening to begin assembling supplies. This guide includes important information including how to develop your family's disaster plan, how to prepare your home and boat for hurricane season and even tips on creating a hurricane kit for your pets. Clip the shopping list to take with you when you buy supplies - the time to do it is well ahead of the start of hurricane season.

During the Storm

Once tropical force winds arrive, emergency crews may not be available to respond to requests for assistance. This means that fire and police may not immediately be able to reach those in need. All residents should be off the streets and in a safe locale. 9-1-1 lines may be backed up. 3-1-1 will be available for non-emergency calls. It's essential that residents wait for the "all clear" from emergency managers before going outdoors. See inside for other tips for weathering the storm.

After the Storm

Safety is never more important than after a storm. Statistics show that more injuries occur immediately following a hurricane than during the storm itself. Residents must be extremely cautious when venturing outdoors and be on the lookout for downed power lines and debris. Driving is often highly hazardous due to nonworking traffic signals and downed signs. County crews will be out on the streets to begin the clean up as soon as it is safe. But residents are asked to stay off the streets as much as possible for their own safety and to allow work crews to work as efficiently as possible. It's also important to remember that improperly installed generators are dangerous - see inside for information on proper use.

Miami-Dade Now Hurricane Preparedness Guide May 2006

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Mayor Carlos Alvarez meets with officials at the County's Emergency Operations Center.

2005 will be remembered as the year of Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma. We lived through them, learned from them, and will be better prepared for whatever next season will bring.

So many County employees and residents worked tirelessly, sacrificing their personal lives and property, in order to provide assistance to others. Of special note are our firefighters from the **Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department**, who braved the devastation in the Gulf States to save lives and comfort those less fortunate than ourselves. Closer to home, our **3-1-1 Answer Center Specialists** hunkered down at the Emergency Operations Center and worked around-the-clock. They answered more than a million calls and relayed accurate and up-to-date information. Staying motivated and customer-friendly is not easy when the phone never stops ringing, but they are doing it.

Even though last year's hurricanes are still fresh in the minds of many, I urge the residents of our County to be proactive and take the proper measures to plan ahead. Start by developing a disaster plan on how you will protect your family, home and property. Make sure your insurance includes coverage for flooding and wind damage.

Assemble a hurricane kit with a three to 14 day supply of bottled water and canned food, flashlights, battery-operated radio, phone with a cord and most importantly, money. Remember, if the power is out for a few days, ATM machines will not be working. As we also know, gas stations

and supermarkets may also be unable to provide goods immediately. We must become as self-sufficient as possible in the event a hurricane strikes and impacts our community.

Experts predict that the upcoming hurricane season will be a busy one. There are many resources available to help residents, including the County's hurricane preparedness website, **prepare.miamidade.gov**. I also invite you to attend one of my three **Hurricane Town Meetings**, where you can hear first hand from experts on how to prepare for hurricane season. The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, May 24, 2006, at 7 p.m., at Miami-Dade College Homestead Campus, 500 College Terrace, Aviation Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Thursday, May 25, 2006, at 7 p.m., at Miami-Dade College North Campus, 11380 N.W. 27 Avenue, William and Joan Lehman Theatre

Thursday, June 1, 2006, at 7 p.m., at Tamiami Fairgrounds, 10901 Coral Way, R. Ray Goode Building, Blue Ribbon Room, 2nd Floor

The best defense against hurricanes is to plan and prepare early. So, don't delay and start developing your disaster plan today.

Your County Commission at work

After Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma rampaged through our community last fall, the **Board of County Commissioners** adopted a number of initiatives and put programs in place to improve how County government responds to emergencies and assists residents in the aftermath of a hurricane. These include:

- Requiring gas stations in Miami-Dade to have an emergency plan to provide uninterrupted operation of all their fuel pumps immediately following the declaration of a local state of emergency. Some supermarkets and grocery stores are also now required to implement emergency plans that will allow them to sell canned and non-perishable foods. Publix Supermarkets has already announced that it is installing generators at store locations throughout the state.
- Urging the state to provide a redundant 9-1-1 system with a microwave component to service as a backup 9-1-1 system should the existing system be damaged in a storm.

aged in a storm.

- Asking the federal government to support a residential shuttering program to allow low-income and elderly residents living in condominiums and single-family residences to obtain window protections.
- Looking at ways to improve pick up of bulky waste prior to each year's hurricane season to reduce the amount of potentially harmful flying debris during peak storm periods.
- Studying possibilities for equipping intersections across the County with emergency lighting supplied with generator power.
- Seeking increased state funding for the management of Special Needs Evacuation Shelters.
- Asking the state legislature to impose more stringent requirements on nursing homes and adult living facilities to ensure more rigorous emergency planning and requiring alternative power sources.



County Chairman Joe A. Martinez, County Manager George M. Burgess and Fire Chief Herminio Lorenzo announce Publix's plan to equip stores with generators.

For current hurricane preparedness information visit: **prepare.miamidade.gov**

From the County Manager

Miami-Dade County has designated the month of May as Hurricane Preparedness Month. This guide is designed to help residents understand their vulnerability and what actions they need to take to reduce the effects of a hurricane making landfall in South Florida.

Please take some time to review the information with your family. In doing so, there are three questions I hope every resident considers:

- **What are your personal hurricane hazards?** Do you live in an evacuation zone? If you are not sure, check the map on page 6. Do you have pets that will need a place to stay if you evacuate? If you need to shelter pets at a public facility, you must register in advance (see page 9 for details). Do you have elderly or disabled family or friends that have special needs? Call 3-1-1, the County's Answer Center, to find out about assistance.
- **Do you have a personal preparation plan?** As a community, we must be prepared to be on our own for up to 72 hours following a major storm. Each household needs to have a personal plan tailored to their own situation. If you live in an

evacuation zone, it's important to know where you will stay. Remember, public shelters can be uncomfortable and should be considered a last resort. Make plans now for sheltering options. Personal preparedness also includes ensuring that your house has adequate protection. This includes impact glass or shutters - see page 7 on County standards for window protection.

Anyone who experienced Katrina and Wilma knows that post-storm power outages can last several days or longer. A generator, installed by a licensed electrician, can provide emergency power and ensure that ice, a much sought-after commodity following a storm, is available.

- **How do I get ready?** First and foremost, take action now. The time to buy emergency supplies is not when we are under a hurricane watch. Throughout the month of May residents should gather their supplies including extra batteries, bottled water and nonperishable foods. Every household should have a personal hurricane kit that includes items to fit their specific needs, such as diapers and medications. See page 12 for a checklist.

The 2005 Hurricane Season will undoubtedly be long remembered for a record-setting number of storms. While we were fortunate to be spared destruction on the scale of what Katrina did to the Gulf States, many of our neighborhoods suffered substantial damage, and then again, from Wilma's strong winds.

History always teaches us lessons. And, there are a number of important ones to keep in mind in coming months. Hurricanes are unpredictable. Forecasters cannot tell us precisely where a storm will make landfall. Preparedness not only means protecting your property and taking steps to deal with the aftermath of a storm, but if a major storm strikes preparedness can save lives.

As South Floridians, we are fortunate to live in a beautiful area and enjoy a wonderful climate. But, we must also accept the responsibilities associated with living in a hurricane-prone locale. Let's take action now to get ready for any 2006 storms that might blow our way.



County Manager George Burgess joins workers distributing ice to residents after Hurricane Wilma.

For more information on hurricane preparedness in your area, call your local commission office:



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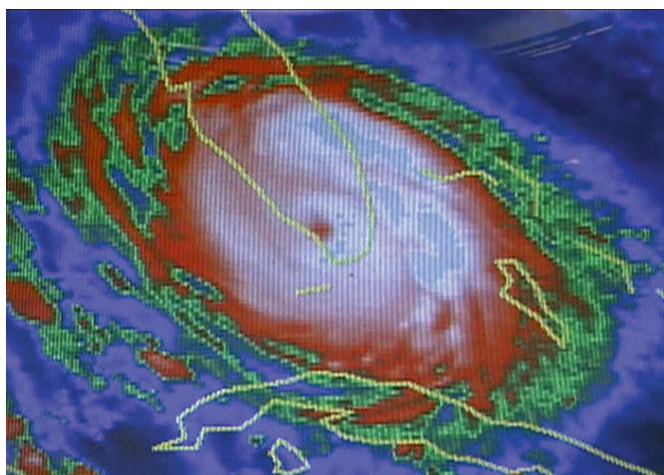
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Hurricane terminology

Tropical Storm Watch

An announcement that a tropical storm or tropical storm conditions pose a threat to coastal areas generally within 36 hours.

Tropical Storm Warning

A warning that tropical storm or tropical storm conditions, including sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph, will affect a specific coastal area within 24 hours or less.

Tropical Depression

A tropical system with the maximum sustained wind of 38 mph or less. Tropical depressions can produce tremendous rainfall amounts.

Tropical Storm

A tropical system in which the maximum sustained wind ranges from 39 to 78 mph. A tropical storm can produce a lot of rainfall and wind, which can cause some beach erosion and boat damage.

Hurricane Watch

An announcement that hurricane conditions pose a possible threat to coastal areas generally within 36 hours.

Hurricane Warning

A warning that hurricane conditions are expected in a specified coastal area within 24 hours or less. This is the time to get ready for severe weather. High winds and coastal flooding will develop many hours before the eye of the storm actually comes onshore.

Hurricane

A tropical system with maximum sustained winds of 74 mph or greater. A hurricane is the worst and strongest of all tropical systems.

Hurricane Eye

The calm center of the storm. In this area, winds die down and the sky is often only partly covered by clouds.

Storm Surge

An abnormal rise in sea level accompanying a hurricane or other intense storm.

2006 hurricane names

The names assigned for the 2006 hurricane season are:

- Alberto
- Beryl
- Chris
- Debby
- Ernesto
- Florence
- Gordon
- Helene
- Isaac
- Joyce
- Kirk
- Leslie
- Michael
- Nadine
- Oscar
- Patty
- Rafael
- Sandy
- Tony
- Valerie
- William

Important phone numbers

Miami-Dade Building

Code Compliance
305.375.2901
www.miamidade.gov/buildingcode

Miami-Dade Consumer Services

(report price gouging)
305.375.3677
TDD: 305.375.4177
www.miamidade.gov/csd

Miami-Dade Animal Services Department

305.884.1101
www.miamidade.gov/animals

Humane Society of Miami

305.696.0800
www.humanesocietymiami.org

American Red Cross

305.644.1200
www.miamiredcross.org

Salvation Army

305.637.6700
www.salvation-armysouth.org/FLA

Utilities

FPL
800.4OUTAGE
800.468.8243
TDD: 800.251.5325
www.fpl.com

BellSouth
888.757.6500
TDD: 305.780.2273
www.bellsouth.com

Comcast
800.266.2278
www.comcast.com

TECO/ Peoples Gas
877.832.6747
TDD: 813.228.4613
www.peoplesgas.com

Federal / State

Cooperative Extension
305.248.3311
www.csree.usda.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency
800.621.3362
TDD: 800.462.7585
www.fema.org

Florida Department of Insurance
800.342.2762
www.fldfs.com

Florida Division of Emergency Management
850.413.9900
www.floridadisaster.org

National Flood Insurance Program
800.638.6620
TDD: 800.447.9487
www.fema.gov/business/nfip

South Florida Water Management District
800.544.2323
www.sfwmd.gov

People with Disabilities

Special Transportation Services (STS)
305.263.5406
TDD 305.630.5300
www.miamidade.gov/transit/paratransit

Florida Relay Service
800.955.8770
TTY: 800.955.8771
www.ftri.org/floridarelay

Weather

National Hurricane Center
www.nhc.noaa.gov

The Weather Channel
www.weather.com

For current hurricane preparedness information visit: **prepare.miamidade.gov**

Before the Storm

Pet-friendly hurricane evacuation center

Having to leave your home because a hurricane is threatening is a very difficult and stressful process. But the decision becomes even more difficult when your family includes a pet you can't imagine leaving behind. Miami-Dade County wants to help make that decision easier. If a hurricane threatens our community and an evacuation is ordered, residents and their pets living in evacuation zones and unsafe structures now have place to go.

Last year, Miami-Dade County opened its first ever **Pet-Friendly Hurricane Evacuation Center** at the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition, Sunshine Pavilion, 10901 S.W. Coral Way. To participate, domestic household pet owners residing in a hurricane evacuation zone must pre-register their pets. Pet owners will need to provide proof of residency within an evacuation zone, and present

medical and current vaccination records for each pet. Also, owners should bring supplies for themselves and their pets for the duration of their stay.

What types of pets are accepted? The Pet-Friendly Hurricane Evacuation Center will allow: dogs, cats, gerbils, guinea pigs, hamsters, mice/rats, rabbits (small-sized, under 10 pounds, such as California or Dutch breeds), ferrets, and birds.

To request an application package call 3-1-1 or visit our hurricane preparedness website, prepare.miamidade.gov. Submitting this application does not guarantee acceptance into the shelter. A tentative acceptance letter will be sent upon receipt and verification of eligibility.

Hurricane kit for your pet

Prepare a hurricane kit for your pets to include:

1. Secure pet carriers for cats and small dogs and sturdy leashes/harnesses for larger dogs and appropriate crates or cages for other type pets such as reptiles, birds, etc.
2. Place medications and medical records, including proof of current vaccinations, in a waterproof container.
3. Check and see if your vet provides a laminated card with proof of current vaccinations at each annual visit which can be used at motels and hotels in case evacuation is necessary.
4. A two-week supply of any medication your pet may be taking on a regular basis and familiar food and water. Also, take bowls and a manual can opener.
5. Cat litter/pan, extra litter and a litter scooper.
6. Current photos of your pet(s) in case they get lost. Also, be sure each of your animals have name tags, rabies tags, etc., securely fastened to their collars.
7. Portable pet beds, a familiar blanket, and lots of toys.

Plan ahead to have a safe place to take your pets because public shelters, like the ones operated by the Red Cross, do not allow family pets. Service dogs are the only exception. Check your local listings for pet-friendly hotels and motels.

Don't wait until the last minute to make plans for your pets. And don't even think about leaving them home! You would never forgive yourself if something happened to them because you left them behind to fend for themselves.



Securing your boat correctly is an important step to protect your investment from being damaged during a storm.

Boat owners: how will your vessel ride out the storm?

As you prepare for hurricane season, don't forget to secure your boat. Also remember that you should never try and ride out a hurricane in your boat. It is probably the most dangerous place to be because of the wind, rain, and storm surge.

During May - hurricane preparedness month

- Check the condition of your vessel and make sure it is in running order in case you have to move it. Make sure it has fuel, the fire fighting and lifesaving equipment is in working order, and the batteries are charged.
- Check the water seals and overall watertight integrity. It will probably encounter more water than usual during a storm.
- Make sure the deck hardware is still structurally sound and will hold the boat with the extra mooring and wind stress during a hurricane.
- Make sure you have enough rope and line to double line the moorings. If not, purchase the necessary materials and supplies ahead of time.
- Consider dry-dock storage if you don't usually use your boat during hurricane season.
- Inventory all vessel equipment, placing copies on board and with your hurricane kit.
- Coordinate your mooring plans with the boat owners around you. Even if you do everything right, if

the boats around you aren't prepared, your vessel will get damaged as well.

- Find out from the dock master at your marina exactly what their hurricane plans are so you can respond accordingly.

As a storm approaches

If you plan on moving your boat do so as early as possible for the following reasons:

- Once evacuations have started off the barrier islands, Intercoastal Waterway bridges will only be opened infrequently until lockdown.
- Local marine law enforcement agencies will put out advisories to all mariners regarding when the bridges will be locked down, which will reduce the time you have to move your boat and may trap you. Monitor VHF channel 16 for those advisories.
- The Miami River cannot be used as a safe harbor location unless you have contracted for marina space.
- Practice moving your boat so you can check conditions enroute and time yourself. Add extra time for other boat traffic and deteriorating weather conditions.

Getting to the root of the problem: pruning trees the right way

People take pleasure in living in communities that have healthy, well-developed trees. It is not a coincidence that the well-shaded areas of Miami-Dade County also have the highest property value. But it is important for homeowners to properly prune their trees, and not "top" trees. **Topping** is when an excessive amount of leaves and branches from the top of a tree are removed. By doing this, its food-making ability is cut-off and the tree can weaken or even die. Topping a tree may cost less for a homeowner in the short run, but its long term effects are more expensive. Such effects include: reduced property value, the expense of removing and possibly replacing the tree if it dies, the loss of other trees and shrubs if they succumb to the changed light conditions, and the risk of property damage from weakened branches that could break off the tree.

Let's talk about hurricanes and trees

We all know that hurricanes already cause enough damage to our community. Some people do not realize that improperly pruning trees can cause even more damage. A large amount of fallen and damaged trees are usually seen after a storm. Most of the time, this is the direct result of improperly cutting or pruning trees. People think that by doing this they will reduce the risk of destruction, but the fact is when a tree is improperly cut its branches are even more vulnerable. The new branch attachment becomes weak, making the tree more susceptible to break apart, which can damage property. Miami-Dade County, other local organizations and experts recommend that you prepare several months prior to hurricane season by doing the following:

- Pruning should be done during the species dormant season or during early spring.
- If you hire someone to trim your trees make sure that the person is a certified arborist. Ask to see the worker's registration, license and insurance. Get a quote in writing.
- NEVER "top" or "hatrack" a tree. "**Hatracking**" is the term used for when a tree is cut or chopped so badly that it is left with few or no leaves on the branches.

- DO NOT remove more than 25% of the tree canopy (the branches and leaves of the tree).
- DO NOT cut a tree's root system.
- Remove mainly the interior branches. This will thin the canopy of the tree and allow the winds to pass through it more easily.
- Make sure to correctly dispose of all tree cuttings since branches and stumps left out in the open can become projectiles during a storm.
- You can even schedule bulky waste pick-up a year from the **Department of Solid Waste Management** at 3-1-1 or 305.514.6666. Be sure to call with enough advance notice to ensure they are able to accommodate your pick up before a storm arrives.

If residents follow these basic recommendations, the impact from tree damage during a storm can be reduced. So there you have it! If we all follow these simple guidelines, we will be helping to increase the amount of well-shaded areas in our community and at the same time the value of our homes!

It's important to know the legal ramifications

A permit is not required to trim a tree. However, it is a violation of Chapter 24 of the Miami-Dade County Code to hatrack or excessively prune trees. A permit is required prior to removing or relocating trees. Many municipalities have additional regulations. Residents can obtain more information by calling 3-1-1 or DERM directly at 305.372.6574 or by visiting www.miamidade.gov/derm

Other Important Information

There are other agencies in Miami-Dade County that are also involved with trees and landscaping. If trees growing on swales or County property needs to be trimmed and/or removed, contact the **Public Works Department** at 305.270.1791 or by calling 3-1-1. You can also call this number if you want to plant a tree on the swale adjacent to your property. If a hedge is growing too tall, contact **Team Metro** at 3-1-1. If you are concerned about trees growing into power lines please contact **FPL** at 1.800.468.8243.



Reviewing insurance policies

Financial recovery from a disaster will largely depend on the insurance you carry. Every year you should review your insurance policies for your residence, car and boat to assure your coverage is sufficient. The policy's instructions will also have some impact on what you will do after a hurricane. There may be helpful advice, as well as specific rules you will need to follow to make your claims.

- **Windstorm:** Make sure that your policy covers windstorms. Some home owners and renters policies may not.
- **Flood insurance:** The **National Flood Insurance Program** is the only underwriter for flood damage to real property or personal effects. You will need to have a separate flood insurance policy written in addition to your homeowners or renters policy. Be advised that there is a 30-day waiting period to get flood insurance, so you'll have to secure the policy in advance of the hurricane season. Your insurance carrier can do this for you, or you can call the **National Flood Insurance Program** directly at 800.638.6620.
- **Replacement coverage:** As soon as you purchase an item and take it home it begins to depreciate, including appliances, computers, sound equipment and other major purchases. When you make an insurance claim, your adjuster will count the depreciation on the item and you may not get the amount you will need to replace the item. Make sure that your personal belongings have replacement coverage that will give you market price for the item in order to replace it.
- **Deductibles:** Review your policy for deductibles and other exclusions so you know what you can expect to have to pay for out of pocket. Some federal disaster loan programs may be available to cover deductibles.
- **Temporary living expenses:** Renters and homeowners should take out policies that will provide them funds for temporary living expenses (or loss of use), which you may need if your residence becomes uninhabitable.
- **Before and after photos:** In May before the start of hurricane season, take photos of your residence both inside and out. Make sure you get clear photos of each room of the house that show the appliances and furniture in each. Take photos of your personal belongings that may require special insurance coverage. Make two copies of the pictures, one for you and one for the insurance adjuster. Once the storm has passed, take the same series of pictures.

For current hurricane preparedness information visit: prepare.miamidade.gov

Before the Storm

Protect and strengthen your home for hurricane season

After last year's active hurricane season, many homes still have blue tarps on their roofs or have many loose tiles. It is important to take all the steps necessary to eliminate potential flying objects that can damage your home or other homes in your neighborhood. Free-standing objects (e.g., loose roof tiles) should be removed to prevent them from becoming projectiles when strong winds blow. Ask your neighbors to do the same.

It is also important to follow some general safety tips for protecting and strengthening your home. This includes shielding your windows, doors, garage doors and similar openings to keep winds out of the house and minimize pressure on the roof. Cover all vulnerable areas with securely fastened shutters, or if feasible, replace them with impact-resistant systems. Doors and windows should also be properly caulked and weather-stripped. Equally important is to have your house inspected to confirm that the roof structure is properly anchored to the walls, the walls to the foundation and to reinforce any weak connections.

Stringent building codes, such as those enforced in Miami-Dade County, contribute to the strengthening of the hurricane protection of homes. The **Miami-Dade County Building Department** offers free workshops for design professionals and builders to review the County's construction code requirements and regulations. In addition, workshops are being held to present the most common causes for inspection disapprovals and what builders can do to increase inspection approvals. The schedule of the remaining workshops for this year - including online registration - are available at www.miamidade.gov/bldg

For additional information on building permitting services for unincorporated Miami-Dade County and the City of West Miami, please contact the **Miami-Dade County Building Department, Permit Records Section**, at 786.315.2100, Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding legal holidays.



Loose roof tiles should be removed prior to any impending storm.

Building Code Compliance Office ensures strong shutter safety standards

By Jennifer L. Messemmer



BCCO Product Control Examiner Helmy Makar inspects a portion of a Hurricane Shutter System during its Notice of Acceptance (NOA) review.

Miami-Dade County has seen its fair share of hurricanes and with predictions of above average hurricane seasons to become the norm for many years to come, investing in hurricane shutters is a cost effective way to protect your family, your property and in many cases your wallet.

The **Miami-Dade Building Code Compliance Office (BCCO) Product Control Section** ensures that shutters meet the County's stringent code requirements.

Since code provisions were updated in 1994 after Hurricane Andrew, residents now have a variety of styles to choose from that can accommodate many different budgets, as well as house designs. All hurricane shutters approved for use in Miami-Dade County must undergo rigorous testing.

Permits require shutters be stamped with "Miami-Dade County Product Control approved." Not all shutters sold in stores meet Miami-Dade County standards.

"The stamp indicates that the shutter has passed impact test requirements and structural wind requirements," said **BCCO Product Control Chief Jaime Gascon**. "By having received this Notice of Acceptance (NOA) it ensures that the shutter manufacturers are audited to verify the products they produce are identical to the ones they originally had tested and approved."

Product Control Examiners review the manufacturer's plans and the test results from the independent laboratories and issue the NOAs if code provisions are met.

"Miami-Dade County has the most stringent code requirements in Florida for our protection," said **Gascon**. "Homeowners must remember that to ensure the optimal performance of shutters during a hurricane that they do one final inspections after putting them up. No matter how strong shutters are, if they are not installed properly they will not withstand their tested standards."

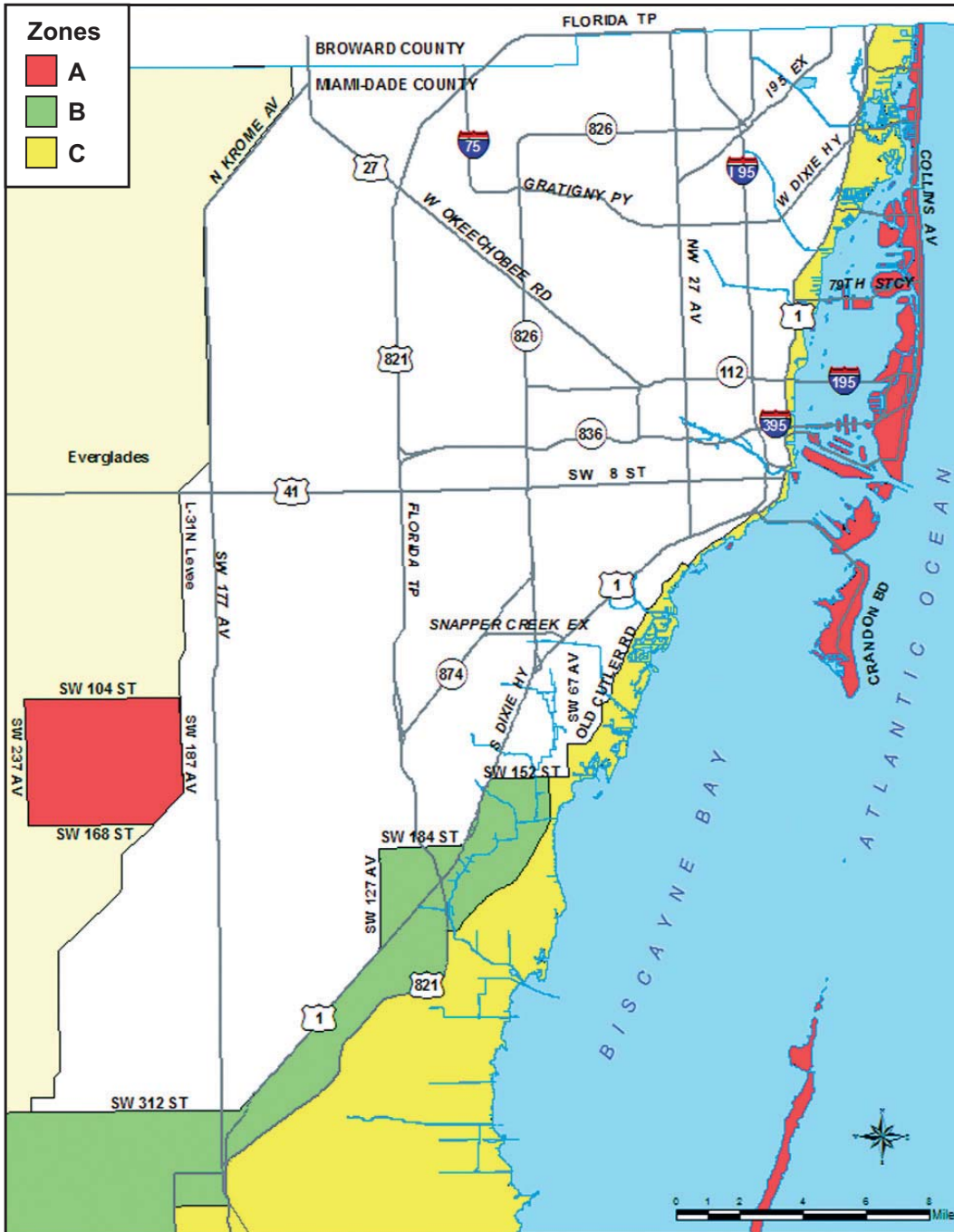
Gascon said that many insurance companies will offer a discount on premiums to homeowners who install Miami-Dade County approved hurricane shutters.

"When considering what type of shutters to install, realize if you opt for shutters such as panels, you could be putting them up and taking down several times a hurricane season," said **Gascon**. "People get weary of doing this, but leaving them up for long periods of time is a life-safety issue because shutters can trap you in your home during a fire."

As with any construction job, always hire a licensed contractor to install shutters or perform repair work on your home.

A list of Miami-Dade County approved shutters and licensed contractors can be found on BCCO's website at www.miamidade.gov/buildingcode. Those without Internet access can call 3-1-1 or BCCO at 305.375.2901.

Hurricane storm surge evacuation zones map



Miami-Dade County evacuation zones

Miami-Dade County has identified three hurricane evacuation zones based on potential storm surge. It is important to know if you reside in one of the zones and to have an evacuation plan in place. Once an evacuation order is given, Miami-Dade Transit will provide transportation to Red Cross Hurricane Evacuation Centers. Residents can call 3-1-1 to find the bus pickup location closest to them.

The three hurricane storm surge evacuation zones are:

- 1. Zone A (Red Zone)** - Miami Beach, Virginia Key, Key Biscayne and all islands lying within Biscayne Bay including the municipalities of Golden Beach, Sunny Isles Beach, Bal Harbour, Bay Harbor Islands, Indian Creek Village, Surfside, North Bay Village, City of Miami Beach and the island portions of the City of Miami.
- 2. Zone B (Yellow Zone)** - All areas of mainland Miami-Dade County lying (north to south) east of Biscayne Blvd., Brickell Avenue, S. Miami Ave., South Bayshore Dr., Main Highway, Ingraham Highway, Old Cutler Rd., the Florida Turnpike south to U.S. 1 to State Road 9336 [SW 344 St. (Palm Dr.), S.W. 192 Ave. (Tower Rd.) and Ingram Highway] south to Everglades National Park. The only exception to this pattern is a small area east of Old Cutler Road, west of S.W. 67 Ave. and north of S.W. 152 St. that is not in the evacuation zone.
- 3. Zone C (Green Zone)** - The area of Miami-Dade County west of Zone B and a line defined by S.W. 152 St. (Coral Reef Dr.) at Old Cutler Rd. going west to U.S. 1 then south to S.W. 184 St. (Eureka Dr.) then west to S.W. 127 Ave. (Burr Rd.) then south to U.S. 1 then U.S. 1 south to S.W. 312 St. (Campbell Dr. or Homestead's N.W. 8 St.) then west to Everglades National Park.

Before the Storm

Update your family emergency plan every year before hurricane season. Everyone should have a role in the plan, including children.



Developing your family plan

Below are some tips to help you and your family create a plan:

1. Safeguard your home. Know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind damage.
2. If you happen to live in an evacuation zone, know where you will evacuate if you need to (i.e. shelter, friend, relative, hotel). Remember, shelters will open but they should be considered a last resort.
3. If you will be staying home, hurricane shutters are your best defense. Practice installing them before a hurricane approaches.
4. Locate a safe room or safest area(s) in your home. This is usually an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows or exterior walls like closets, bathroom and utility rooms that can provide a second level of protection from airborne debris.
5. Stock your "must-have" supplies in your safe room.
6. Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact so all your family members can have a single point of contact.
7. Make a plan now for what to do with your pets if you need to evacuate.
8. If a family member requires special care like life-support equipment, register for the Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program by calling 3-1-1.
9. Put valuables, photos and copies of important papers in waterproof bags and store in a safe place (i.e. safe deposit box) including photos of the interior and exterior of your home, your driver's license, list of medications, important names, addresses, phone numbers (doctors, lawyers, insurance agents, family and friends), account numbers and policy numbers (health, flood, auto and home).
10. Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 9-1-1.
11. Review your insurance coverage - flood damage is often not covered by homeowner's insurance.
12. Remember to take the time **now** to work on your family plan.

Assistance available for special needs

News that a hurricane is approaching South Florida can be trying and stressful. In the time before a disaster occurs, people rush to prepare for the storm. They shutter their homes, stockpile food and water, and if necessary, they evacuate. But how about those individuals who are unable to assist themselves? Who helps Miami-Dade's most vulnerable citizens in their time of need?

The Miami-Dade Office of Emergency Management (OEM) coordinates the **Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program (EEAP)** designed to identify and support members of the community who need assistance evacuating. OEM maintains a registry of those residents who are eligible.

In order to receive assistance residents must register for the program. If residents call at the last minute, all attempts will be made to assist them, but the people on the registry will have priority. The application is available in English, Spanish and Creole. Vital medical information included in the application will help OEM determine eligibility for the program and the types of services needed. If eligible, the participant will be assigned to an appropriate facility.

Space at these facilities is limited. It is also important to note that these shelters offer the same amenities as general population shelters. Evacuees still need to bring their own bedding, food, particularly special dietary needs, and water supplies. These shelters, like the general population shelters, do not allow pets.

If you would like to learn more about the Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program visit prepare.miamidade.gov or call the Miami-Dade Answer Center at 3-1-1.



The Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program is specifically designed to assist elderly residents who need assistance evacuating for a storm.

Bottling your own water is safe and easy

By Frank Calderon

Turn your television on when a hurricane is threatening and one of the images you are sure to see on the news is people grabbing bottled water from store shelves. But why go to the store and fight the crowds for water when there's a better way?

This hurricane season, instead of buying bottled water, invest in plastic water containers for your family. Plastic water containers are available in a variety of sizes, from four to 10 gallons or more, and some are collapsible and can be folded easily for storage. They can be purchased at either sporting goods stores or the sporting goods department of most

major department stores. And they're built to last for years of use, so you'll save money in the long run.

Make sure you get enough plastic containers so everyone in your family - including your pets - has enough water to last a minimum of three days. Calculate about one gallon per person, per day and you should be okay.

When you bring your plastic containers home, don't fill them up just yet. Keeping water stored a long time could attract harmful bacteria and make the water taste stale. Wait until a hurricane warning is announced first.

Worried that the container might be "icky" when you fill it? Not a problem. Wash it out with soap and water first, then rinse it well. Next, fill it with a solution of one tablespoon of unscented household chlorine bleach - the kind used for laundry - per gallon. Let it sit 10 minutes, then pour out the solution and rinse the container well. It's now ready to be filled up with tap water.

Follow this advice and you won't have to worry that your grocery store is out of bottled water the next time a hurricane heads our way.

Information at your fingertips

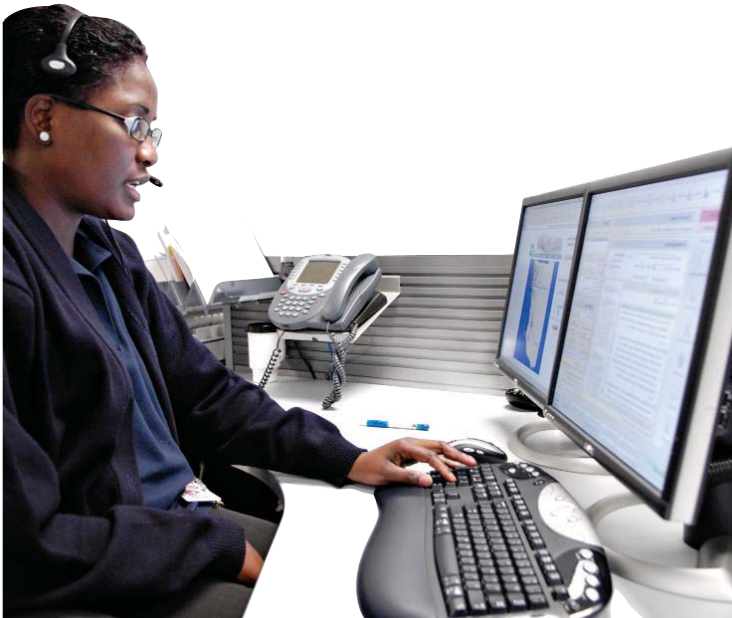
Information is vital during hurricane season. Before, during and after a storm the County's 3-1-1 Answer Center is an important source of information on government services and updates on subjects ranging from school closing to shelter locations. Introduced in 2005, 3-1-1 proved to be a valuable resource during Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma when the County's call takers handled thousands of calls throughout the storm emergencies.

Here's how it works: Anyone living in Miami-Dade can now simply dial the three, easy-to-remember digits, 3-1-1, to access a multilingual call specialist. Yes, a real person answers the phone!

Now, handling 100,000 calls a month, the call takers can answer questions on services or handle a request for service. No longer do residents need to search telephone directories to find the right number to connect to a government agency or office - they just need to remember 3-1-1.

3-1-1 played an important role following Hurricane Wilma when thousands of residents, especially the elderly and low-income families, required assistance with food, shelter and other human services. Miami-Dade created the **Help Us, Help You** program to connect those in need with the appropriate government services - 3-1-1 served as the channel to identify those in need.

But remember, 3-1-1 is for non-emergencies. Dial 9-1-1 for emergencies.



Do not go outside at any time during a storm. Even during the eye of the storm, winds can pick up suddenly and become extremely dangerous.

During the storm

- Remain calm.
- Continue to watch local news or listen to the radio for weather coverage and updates.
- Go indoors and stay indoors until the storm has passed. Some people think the storm has passed, but it is actually just the eye of the storm.
- Turn off circuit breakers before the power goes. Leave one circuit breaker on with a lamp so you will know when the power is restored.
- Use flashlights, not candles or kerosene lamps, during a storm.
- Stay in your safe room even if you hear breaking glass. Do not risk exposure to hurricane winds.
- Place animals in carriers.
- If your house starts to break apart, cover yourself with a mattress. If your safe room is a bathroom with a bathtub, get in the tub under a mattress.
- Use the phone only for urgent calls. Don't use the phone if you hear thunder.
- If you are in a very tall building, avoid the top floors, as wind speeds are stronger the higher you go. Go to a safe room and use extreme caution.

After the Storm

Generator safety

By Lt. Shanti Hall

In the event of power outages, generators can make life much more comfortable during the days following a major storm. Following the 2005 Hurricane Season, with the power out for days, and even weeks in some areas, generators have become a mainstay of hurricane preparedness for many households.

Before Katrina and Wilma, if you would have asked any Miami-Dade resident about generators, they would have given you a puzzled look and said something like, "Huh? Aren't those the doohickeys that crazy scientists on research missions in the Antarctic use to keep their tents warm?"

After Hurricane Season 2005, however, generators have become a common household name. These gas-powered machines brought a small bit of comfort to thousands of people in South Florida without power after the storms, but the universe won't allow us to escape the yin and yang of anything. There was a lot of negative with the positive.

Along with the spike in generator sales, there was a spike in generator-related emergencies such as Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning, structure fires from generator explosions, burns and other injuries. Most of these emergencies were preventable.

When operating a generator, keep the following in mind:

- All gas-powered engines emit Carbon Monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas that can build up to fatally toxic levels in the environment. Generators must only be operated outside of inhabited structures in a well-ventilated area and should never be placed anywhere near windows, doors, vents or other openings.
- If you're going to spend hundreds or even thousands of dollars on a generator, pitch in the extra twenty or thirty bucks for a CO detector. That's a tremendous bargain for the life safety benefit.

- Never operate a generator on the balcony of a multi-unit structure. The boundaries of most balconies force you to place the generator way too close to your own living areas as well as those of your neighbors.
- Never attempt to refuel a generator while it is running or still hot. Turn it off and allow it to cool before adding fuel. Take extreme care not to spill fuel onto the generator or the surrounding area.
- Read your generator's manual very carefully. Follow all directions and pay close attention to the electrical load rating. Never overload the generator.
- Never attempt to connect a portable generator to the main electrical panel in your home. Not only is this very dangerous for occupants, it is also fatally dangerous for electrical workers who are trying to restore power.

If you're pretty sure you're done with your generator (or at least hoping you're done with it) here are some tips for safe storage:

- Store the generator in a dry, well-ventilated area with the fuel tank empty.
- Give it a good cleaning before storing. Remove traces of oil, dirt and other foreign matter.
- Do not store near fuel supplies.
- Do not store near appliances such as water heaters or pumps, especially if they are gas-powered.
- When you pull your generator out after any storage period, remember to inspect it carefully for broken or missing parts.

Even though most of us were able to shut down our generators and put them away last year, we shouldn't forget the importance of generator safety. After all, Hurricane Season 2006 is right around the corner.



Miami-Dade Solid Waste crews will begin debris pickup as soon as conditions are safe enough.

Debris removal - after a storm

Do's

- Check your local media for information regarding when waste collection services will resume. You can also call **3-1-1** or visit www.miamidade.gov/dswm
- Do your part. Take small amounts of hurricane debris to a **Neighborhood Trash and Recycling Center**.
- Place large piles of hurricane debris on the right-of-way of your property for collection, away from fences, mailboxes, drains, power lines and low hanging wires.

- Be patient. Due to the high volume of debris that can result from a hurricane, debris removal can be a lengthy process.

Don'ts

- Do not place hurricane debris on a vacant lot.
- Do not place hurricane debris in front of commercial properties including nurseries and farmland.
- Do not place non-hurricane related trash on the right-of-way after a hurricane.

Neighborhood Trash and Recycling Centers

North Dade 21500 N.W. 47 Ave.	West Little River 1830 N.W. 79 St.	Snapper Creek 2200 S.W. 117 Ave.	Eureka Drive 9401 S.W. 184 St.
Norwood 19901 N.W. 7 Ave.	Sunset Kendall 8000 S.W. 107 Ave.	Richmond Heights 14050 Boggs Dr.	South Miami Heights 20800 S.W. 117 Ct.
Palm Springs North 7870 N.W. 178 St.	Chapman Field 13600 S.W. 60 Ave.	West Perrine 16651 S.W. 107 Ave.	Moody Drive 12970 S.W. 268 St.
Golden Glades 140 N.W. 160 St.			